

## CONCORDIA COUNCIL ON STUDENT LIFE

Minutes of a meeting held in H-769 at 12:00 noon on Friday, 8 November, 1991.

---

**PRESENT:** Donald L. Boisvert, Chair, Mohammed Ahsan, Peter Côté, Roger Côté, Brian Counihan, Hernani Farias, Sup Mei Graub, Lana Grimes, Nick Kaminaris, Aparna Kurupati, Marlis Hubbard, Bluma Litner, Connie Morales, Charlene Nero, Bob Philip, Shirley Maynes, Secretary

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Ann Kerby, Janet Mrenica, Brahm Rosensweig, Nancy Torbit

**OBSERVERS:** Angela Ghadban, Tisca Pratt

---

1. **Introduction of New Members**

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted as proposed.

3. **Chair's Remarks**

In order to reflect better the services offered, the departmental name of Guidance Services has been changed to Counselling and Development. This change is also in line with the titles of similar units in other universities.

Dr. Boisvert welcomed to Council newly-elected professional staff member, Peter Côté, Chaplain from Campus Ministry.

Dr. Boisvert noted the positive remarks received concerning the last meeting, and he indicated that Council has made an excellent start for the new year.

4. **Adoption of the Minutes**

The minutes of the 11 October, 1991 meeting were duly moved by Bob Philip, seconded by Hernani Farias and adopted. It was duly noted that the meeting was held in H-769 and not H-773 as indicated.

5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

- (a) Following some minor changes, the text for the ad to be published in The Thursday Report, the Link and the Concordian was approved. It was suggested that publication of the text be staggered over a period of several weeks in order to reach as wide an audience as possible.

- (b) Implementation Report (CCSL-10-91-D1). Due to time constraints, students requested that the report remain tabled until the next meeting.

6. Planning and Resources Committee

A membership list will be distributed once the staff/faculty representative is selected.

The Committee will be meeting on the Friday preceding Council meetings. Co-chair Bob Philip encouraged students to bring issues of concern to the Committee.

Space Planning Priorities - Discussion deferred to next meeting, as the Committee requested additional time to study the proposals. Dr. Boisvert will ensure space issue concerns are directed to and addressed by the appropriate authorities.

The following are some of the issues which were discussed at the Committee's first meeting: teaching evaluation of faculty; quality in teaching vs. research demands; professional development and teacher training; flexibility of classroom requirements; standardization of grading; identifying and reaching students in academic jeopardy; library facilities; copyright laws; student apathy: correlation between willingness to be involved vs. academic demands.

Dr. Boisvert would appreciate receiving copies of the Committee's minutes.

7. Open Discussion

The Chair commented that this portion of the meeting was designed as an open-ended brain storming session which will help identify student life issues and concerns. In addressing student needs in a holistic manner, academic, social and personal dimensions must be considered. Student Services' role must be vibrant and creative, and we must approach the many dimensions of student life in a broad perspective in order to form a "partnership" with faculty and student services and bridge the gap which currently exists in many areas.

Apathy is not just a student problem and many of the vehicles currently available often put students in a defensive position and into "we-they" situations.

Some areas of concern which surfaced during the open discussion were:

- The duplication of effort between student-run services and University-run services. An inventory of ALL available services should be compiled in order to investigate the possibility of sharing meager resources.
- Advocate changes in other University bodies in order that students may have a more equitable voice. Inform students of the importance of their voice in Senate, Faculty Councils, Board of Governors, etc.
- Many students would like to be more involved, but do not have the time due to part-time jobs, family responsibilities, etc.
- Investigate system whereby students could receive academic credit for involvement in non-classroom activities. In order for such a system to have academic integrity, we need dedicated, responsible faculty members to cooperate in such a labour intensive undertaking.
- Look at means of developing "school spirit" for all students, including the part-time and non-traditional student.
- Disseminating information to students - how much do they know about their own student constituency? How do student associations address these issues?
- Publish a survival guide and/or a central directorate identifying where help can be obtained.
- Issue of diversity and the lack of respect for this diversity: the need for tolerance to be addressed by the institution as a whole.
- A strong orientation programme needs to be developed, and this has already begun under the auspices of the Orientation Committee.

Dr. Boisvert reassured Council that in his role as Associate Vice-Rector, Services (Student Life), and Chair of CCSL, he would ensure that issues discussed are addressed to the appropriate decision-making bodies in the University.

The Chair suggested that the Planning and Resources Committee and Council should review their lists of concerns and begin the task of defining directions and solutions. Decisions will then have to be taken concerning areas of focus, the establishment of any necessary task forces, etc.

8. Reports from Directors

Counselling and Development - Sup Mei Graub

- the Department is in the process of adjusting to its new name;
- all programmes are running smoothly;
- focus on identifying and assisting students in academic jeopardy;
- sensitization for all staff concerning issues of diversity within the student population.

Financial Aid and Awards - Roger Côté

- orientation committee is in the process of soliciting from various units the type of publications, services and programmes which are available to new students.
- as part of the unit's goals and objectives, para-professional workshops are being offered to students interested in volunteer work in the sector.
- the University is voicing its opposition to the 3% administrative fee being applied to Canada student loans.
- Quebec Government Aid Report (1990-1991)
  - 12% increase in numbers of students receiving Quebec loans and bursaries;
  - 3,376,000 \$ in additional student aid;
  - ratio of loan to bursary has increased from 53% to 57%.
- Emergency Loan Fund - report to be presented at next meeting.
- University in-course bursaries (\$135,000. in '91-92)) are awarded based on financial need and academic achievement. Both criteria are equally weighted.
- Work Study Programme has been evaluated and has proven to be extremely successful for both students and employers.

Dean of Students - Brian Counihan

- wordprocessing workshops are being offered to students - cost \$20.00;
- Council members should begin thinking about CCSL Awards Night.

Recreation and Athletics - Bob Philip

- lights being installed on football field;
- Quebec male student athlete of the year won by Robert Desjardins, goal tender in Men's Hockey;

Advocacy and Support Services - Ann Kerby

- activities have centered on issues of poverty, violence against women, recognition and promotion of the rights of minority groups, research towards areas of student support for women and native students, as well as taking an active role in conflict resolution.
- activities and services are advertised in The Agenda for the Women's Centre, the Services for Disabled Students Newsletter and the Campus Ministry Bulletin.
- the International Students Office has just concluded an intense period of welcoming international students and are developing materials to better prepare students before they arrive at Concordia.

Best wishes are extended to Danette Steele, Coordinator, Women's Centre who will be leaving the University on December 6, 1991.

Upcoming events: Spirit of Christmas - Fund Raising Drive;  
Women and Body Image Conference - Nov. 23-24.  
Memorial Service - December 6.

Students' Report

The Housing Office and the Job Bank have amalgamated and are now located in H-662.

9. Other Business

(a) Employment Services for Students

Despite the pressure which was applied by universities and the Quebec government, the Canada Employment Centres on Campus will be phased out by the Federal Government. We are currently in the first year of a three-year withdrawal process. Financial compensation for those institutions which will retain services is as follows: 75% in year one, 50% in year two and 25% in year three.

Dr. Boisvert noted that the University is committed to maintaining the essential elements of placement services and he and Dr. Graub will be discussing transitional measures with the Federal Government. Employment services will definitely be a future issue for Council to consider. Dr. Boisvert will provide an update at the January meeting.

MOTION by N. Kaminaris, SECONDED by A. Kurupati: an Advisory Committee be struck to analyze employment services and placement in general terms, discuss an interface with CUSA's Job Bank and prepare recommendations for the future.

Both the mover and the seconder agreed to table the above motion following Ms. Nero's suggestion that Drs. Boisvert and Graub meet with Michael Ryan and Rosie Glavic. It was agreed that Ms. Nero would make the necessary arrangements for the meeting.

- (b) Tours - students who would like to tour the various Student Services facilities are invited to contact the appropriate Directors in order to make the necessary arrangements.
- (c) Dr. Boisvert has been interviewed for a feature article in an upcoming edition of the Thursday Report concerning the new structure in Student Services.

10. Next Meeting

Friday, 13 December, 1991 at Noon in H-769.

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.

The mandate of the CCSL Planning & Resources Committee is broad in scope. Its purpose is to be an active participant in the strategic planning process for Student Services, and to review and comment upon all related issues, whether space, long-term budget planning or other resources. The Committee makes appropriate recommendations to CCSL.

One other Director  
One staff member or faculty member  
Five other students

Mr. R. Philip	Co-chair
Mr. H. Farias	Co-chair
Ms. S. M. Graub	
Mr. P. Coté	
Mr. N. Kaminaris	
Ms. J. mrenica	
Ms. C. Nero	
Ms. L. Grimes	
GSA Rep:	To be named